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Amendments To The Specification:

In the Specification, please amend paragraph [0011] as follows:

[0011] Essential to the invention is the idea that status information (particularly absence information) is produced and captured at a first terminal 12(a), said terminal being assigned to a first subscriber. This information 18 is then transferred to a switching node 14 of a telecommunication system and stored there. The switching node 14 then transfers the information 20(a) to a second terminal 12(b), which may be in the same telecommunication system and which is assigned to a second subscriber, such that the absence information is then available at the second terminal 12(b). In this way the second subscriber has the status of the first subscriber ready at all times. It is advantageous not only to integrate these novel communication paradigms into future IP products, but also to provide this functionality in the existing product environment (IP convergence). This in turn ensures that the existing investment of the customer retains its value (investment protection).

In the Specification, please amend paragraph [0023] as follows:

[0023] In an advantageous embodiment of the claimed method, standard protocols such as the Session Initiation Protocol (SIP), for example, are used for sending the absence information between terminals of a PBX and external terminals. In this way the platform-independent exchange of the absence information is possible. In this embodiment the terminal 12(b) of Figure 1 may correspond to an external terminal with the switching node 14 corresponding to a PBX connected to transfer the information 20(a) to the second terminal 12(b) via a data network such as the Internet or a LAN.